



Vishal Tiwari
President

Andrew Richardson
VP Administration

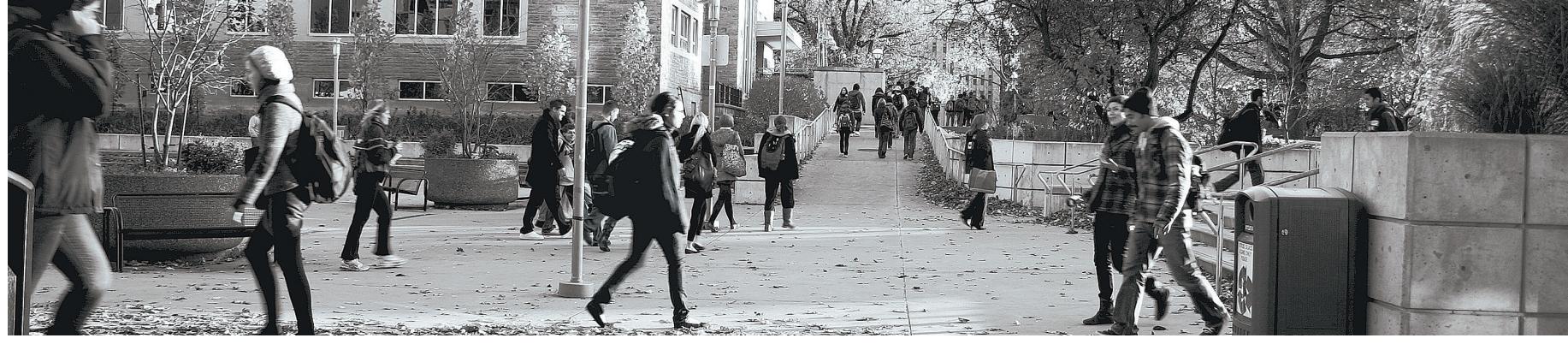
Andrew Caterine
VP Finance

Chris Martin
VP Education

President's Page

WHO IS THE MSU? IN A WORD - YOU

Recognize yourself as a member of this union and its potential is endless



Despite how this page may often read, the McMaster Students Union is not the Board of Directors who you see below.

Nor is the MSU the 35 undergraduate student representatives who comprise the Student Representative Assembly (SRA). Moreover, the MSU is much more than a plethora of businesses and services designed to aid in student life.

The nearly 20,000 undergrads who grace this campus are all members of the McMaster Students Union and as a collective we form the single largest organization on this campus. We are one of the biggest alliances in the city of Hamilton, yet we lack a cohesive understanding of this important fact. As students, we tend segregate ourselves

along many different and divergent lines; faculty/program, year of study, club interests, sport affiliations and numerous other social stratifications. I make this point because I feel it is necessary for students of McMaster University to take ownership of your union. Cast off the self-imposed restrictions, reservations and excuses you place on yourself and realize that the MSU exists solely because you exist. What do you want from your union?

The nature of the body politic is that it is only as valuable as its wilful participants. When individuals lobby for a cause they believe in, they are not only making a political statement, but exerting a right to be part of something bigger, to exercise agency in a way that contributes to a collective. Every single undergraduate student at this university is part of the MSU, and every individual has a right to contribute to the system.

Within that right however is a choice, a choice to get involved, to choose to take your personal agency and wield it in a positive way. It is one thing to criticize the vices of the organization - debate is essential - but it is another thing entirely to abstain from the process of change and proceed to unravel the positive virtues of the collective. The renegades of our alliance will sit around and bully the individuals within the organization who are willing to do the work, willing to try to make a difference, without any attempt to facilitate change or contribute positively to the discussion.

Our campus seems to have forgotten that undergrads are not led by four guys in MUSC 201, in fact, it's quite the opposite. The four guys in MUSC 201 - and 31 other people in Gilmour Hall 111 every other Sunday night - are led by undergrads. The destiny of the good ship MSU relies on the will of

students to engage with their education and engage with the structures in place that allocate funds to 35 MSU student services.

University campuses are the ideal setting for cultivating change, and the MSU acts as a pivotal player in that process. It's the middle-ground between academic life and the real world, and there is so much potential in this organization to be better, to learn from mistakes of past leaders and to wholly represent its members.

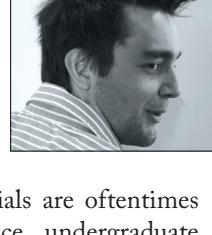
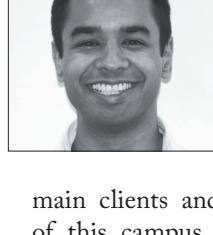
Challenge your faculty reps on the SRA to represent you, challenge me to address the issues that are truly important to you. I guarantee I will be up for that challenge, are you?

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STRIKE WATCH '09

Undergrad perspective on the labour dispute

The Board of Directors express their thoughts on the current labour disruption and call on both parties to resolve the dispute immediately



After the final two unsuccessful days of bargaining, CUPE Local 3906 and McMaster University have failed to come to a new contract agreement. Students, staff and faculty arriving to campus Monday morning were greeted by a picket line. This disappointing turn of events is of great concern to this union of undergraduate students.

The MSU's stance on the issue remains the same. We believe both sides need to take the negotiation process seriously so that students, as the

main clients and primary stakeholders of this campus, are not denied a key aspect of their educational experience. Unfortunately, this has not happened and some tutorials will not run.

While the MSU remains impartial to a particular side, this student's union is extremely disappointed that the process has come to this point. The prevailing sentiment suggests that the longer a strike lasts, the more the undergraduate educational experience will suffer as a result.

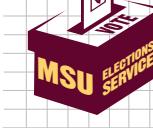
In a large enrolment university

like McMaster, tutorials are oftentimes the only real chance undergraduate students have to engage with course material in small groups. This opportunity is being denied to undergrads because of the current disruption, and we feel that is detrimental to our education.

One of the more troubling aspects of the current strike is the rhetoric surrounding educational quality as a matter of concern for negotiators. It is our view that undergraduate students will take these arguments with a grain of salt, as they come from parties who have

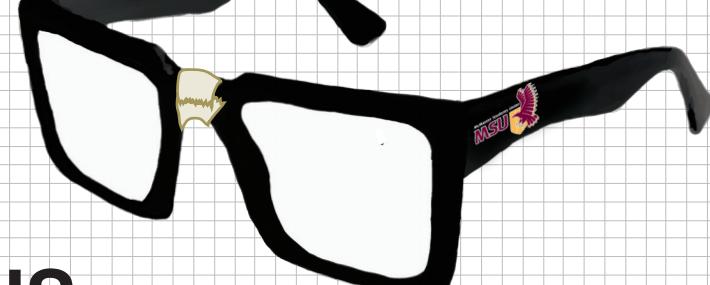
directly placed the quality of education at McMaster University in jeopardy.

The MSU will be seeking to provide updates to students through our website. As well, we encourage you to follow both the McMaster Daily News and the CUPE Bargaining blog. As this strike continues, the MSU will be working to ensure that you have a chance to critically engage with this issue. As it stands, we do not support this disruption to undergraduate life. For more information, feel free to contact any one of us.



POP POLL: DO MSU ELECTIONS MAKE THE GRADE?

more info at msu.mcmaster.ca/elections



- 1 Go to <https://elections.mcmaster.ca> between November 10th-12th, from 8:30 a.m. to midnight
- 2 Log on using your Mac ID
- 3 Fill out the survey and you could win gift certificates from Titles, Twelve Eighty or Union Market, or a brand new Inspiron Mini with Windows 7!

